

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07473 211331Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 NEAE-00 IO-13 /092 W
-----016414 211332Z /43

P R 211215Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2969
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7473

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: ISLAMABAD 7360

1. EMBOFF WAS INFORMED BY A PAKISTANI JOURNALIST ON JULY 21 THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO HAS RECENTLY GRANTED INTERVIEWS TO THE BBC AND A MELBOURNE NEWSPAPER. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THREE MAIN THEMES EMERGED: FIRST, BHUTTO WAS COY ABOUT WHETHER HE WOULD CONTEST THE ELECTIONS OR NOT. HE TOLD THE REPORTERS THAT HE WOULD MAKE HIS DECISION AFTER CONSULTING WITH PPP LEADERS. BEFORE THAT, HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENT. SECOND, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 07473 211331Z

THE FORMER PM WAS IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF THE ARMY TAKE-OVER, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY REFER TO ZIA OR ANY OTHER MILITARY LEADERS. IT WAS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT ANTI-AMERICANISM REMAINS A IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN HIS THINKING ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN. AT ONE POINT IN THE INTERVIEWS, HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE FACTS WILL EVENTUALLY COME OUT ABOUT THE MASSIVE INTERVENTION IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE IMPERIALISTS AND REACT-

IONARIES WILL SUFFER A GREAT DEFEAT.

2. ACCORDING TO NEWS STORIES ON JULY 21, THE EDITOR OF MUSAWAAT, THE OFFICIAL PPP NEWSPAPER, WAS ARRESTED BY THE MLA THE PREVIOUS DAY AFTER FAILING TO APPEAR ON TIHF FOR AN INTERVIEW. THE MLA REPORWDLY HAD SUMMONED HIM AND THE EDITOR OF NAWA-CVA WAQT TO DISCUSS RECENT POLITICAL STORIES WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE TWO PAPERS VIOLATING THE "UNDERSTANDING" THE PRESS HAS HAD WITH THE MILITARY REGIME. THE NAWA-I-WAQT EDITOR SHOWED UP AS DIRECTED, THREBY AVOIDING ARREST.

3. IN THIS AND OTHER ACTIONS SUCH AS THE INVESTIGATIONS THE MLA HAS REPORTEDLY UNDERTAKEN REGARDING THE ALLOTMENT OF LICENSES TO PPP FAVORITES FOR GHEE, CEMENT AND RATION DEPOTS, THE MILITARY HAS DISPLAYED POLITICAL NAIVETE. WHILE GENERAL ZIA AND OTHERS IN THE MILITARY COUNCIL MAY BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE MERELY UPHOLDING THE LAW, THEIR ACTIONS ARE PUBLICLY PERCEIVED AS PR-PNA. IF THE MILITARY CONTINUES TO FOCUS ITS "DISCIPLINARY" MEASURES ON THE PPP, ITS CREDIBILITY WILL

SUFFER AND ITS CLOAK OF DISINTEREST - ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESSFUL ELECTIONS -WILL FURTHER SLIP.

4. ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 07473 211331Z

FEDERAL SECURITY FORCE AND ITS DIRECTOR GENERAL MASUD MAHMUD. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MAHMUD HAS MADE SOME SENSATIONAL DISCLOSURES ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE FSF IN KILLINGS IN PINDI IN 1973 AND AT TAJPURA, LAHORE DURING MUSTAFA KHAR'S UNSUCCESSFUL BY-ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN 1975. IF TRUE, BOTH COULD FOCUS THE ANTI-CORRUPTION AND EXCESSES SPOTLIGHT ON BHUTTO. HUMMEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ISLAMA07473
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770259-0752
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770734/aaaabdhx.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 73e76d66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ISLAMABAD 7360
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1793968
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/73e76d66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009